

## CLAIMS

1        1. A handheld computer, comprising:

2              a housing having a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a  
3              left and right sides of the housing, respectively, the first and second accessory slots  
4              capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1        2. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second

2              accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of  
3              the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4              exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory  
5              device.

1        3. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein a bottom of the housing is

2              flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1        4. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory slots are

2              substantially cylindrical.

1        5. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a

2              stylus device.

1        6. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a

2              cover device.

1        7. The handheld computer of claim 1, further comprising:

2              an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3              port having at least one external port contact.

1        8. The handheld computer of claim 7, wherein the accessory device is an

2              input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3              port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4              slot.

1           9.     The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second  
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           10.    The handheld computer of claim 9, wherein the retaining device is a  
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1           11.    A handheld computer, comprising:  
2           a housing including a midframe and a front and back shells, the midframe  
3 being at least partially exposed to an exterior of the handheld computer, the housing  
4 including a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a left and right  
5 sides of the housing, respectively, each accessory slot capable of accommodating and  
6 at least partially enclosing an elongate accessory device along a substantial portion of  
7 the length of the accessory device.

1           12.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second  
2 elongate accessory slots are integral with the midframe.

1           13.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein a bottom of the housing  
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           14.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory slots are  
2 substantially cylindrical.

1           15.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 stylus device.

1           16.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 cover device.

1           17.    The handheld computer of claim 11, further comprising:

2                   an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3                   port having at least one external port contact.

1                 18.    The handheld computer of claim 17, wherein the accessory device is an  
2                   input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3                   port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4                   slot.

1                 19.    The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second  
2                   accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1                 20.    The handheld computer of claim 19, wherein the retaining device is a  
2                   notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1                 21.    A handheld computer, comprising:  
2                   a housing having a midframe, the midframe forming part of an exterior of the  
3                   housing, the midframe having a first and second accessory slots associated with a left  
4                   and right sides of the midframe, respectively, the first and second accessory slots  
5                   being elongate and capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable  
6                   accessory device;

7                   a front shell coupled to a front side of the midframe; and  
8                   a back shell coupled to a back side of the midframe.

1                 22.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2                   accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of  
3                   the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4                   exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory  
5                   device

1                 23.    The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein a bottom of the housing  
2                   is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           24. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory slots are  
2 substantially cylindrical.

1           25. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 stylus device.

1           26. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a  
2 cover device.

1           27. The handheld computer of claim 21, further comprising:  
2           an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external  
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1           28. The handheld computer of claim 27, wherein the accessory device is an  
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4 slot.

1           29. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second  
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1           30. The handheld computer of claim 29, wherein the retaining device is a  
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1           31. A method of manufacturing a handheld computer, comprising:  
2           providing a housing capable of substantially enclosing a plurality of  
3 components;  
4           forming a first elongate accessory slot on a left side of the housing; and  
5           forming a second elongate accessory slot on a right side of the housing,  
6 wherein the first and second accessory slots are capable of receiving and  
7 accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1           32. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2 partially enclose the accessory device along substantially an entire length of the  
3 accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an  
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the entire length of the  
5 accessory device.

1           33. The method of claim 31, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out  
2 and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1           34. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory slots are substantially  
2 cylindrical.

1           35. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a stylus  
2 device.

1           36. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a cover  
2 device.

1           37. The method of claim 31, further comprising:  
2           forming an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the  
3 external port having at least one external port contact.

1           38. The method of claim 37, wherein the accessory device is an  
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external  
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory  
4 slot.

1           39. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots  
2 each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices. -

1           40. The method of claim 39, wherein the retaining device is a notch which  
2 mates with a detent on the accessory device.